

Appl. No. 10/789,847
Amdt. dated November 4, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 4, 2005

REMARKS

It is believed that the foregoing amendments meet the Examiner's objections and place the case in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that their form PTO-1449 filed with the present application inadvertently listed only the art for which copies were required, but failed to list the patent art of which applicants are aware. The accompanying form PTO-1449 lists all such art that was not already cited by the Examiner. The fee for late filing of the information statement accompanies this response.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 9, 13, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The two noted problems are (1) the sub-genus of "volatile solvents" in the nucleating solution and (2) the genus of volatile solvents and acetone in particular in the plating solution.

With respect to the first rejection, it is respectfully noted that the specification at page 6, lines 1-3 says:

The plating process preferably includes activating the first surface by dipping the porous layer of the body in a solution of platinum salt in a **volatile solvent**, such as acetone, and allowing the solution to wick into the porous layer. (Emphasis added.)

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This language has been present in the application since the original grandparent was filed. Therefore, it is believed that adequate basis exists for this limitation.

The second rejection has been dealt with by correcting claims 18 and 19.

Claims 11-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph because of insufficient antecedent basis for "the first surface." That phrase has been corrected to "the outer surface".

Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner's admonitions in paragraph 6 are not understood by applicants' attorney. Inasmuch as this application is entirely a divisional application, adding no new matter, it is not seen how 103(c), 102(e), 102(f) or 102(g) could be relevant.

Claims 1-10 have been canceled without prejudice to applicant's right to reassert them in a continuation or divisional application.

Independent claim 11 has been rejected as obvious over Tanaka '507 in view of Orlowski '023. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 11 as amended differs from Tanaka '507 in a number of ways.

These claims have been amended without prejudice to applicants' right to reassert them in a continuation or divisional application. As now written, claim 1 calls for, among other things, "forming a solid, unfired, thimble-shaped ceramic body, thereafter depositing a ceramic layer on an outer surface of the unfired body, thereafter heating the body to densify the body and to form a hard, porous ceramic

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layer on the outer surface of the body, thereafter activating the porous layer"

Tanaka '507 first fires a ceramic body (col. 6, lines 5-7), then "applies" either a composite material prepared by kneading a mixture of ceramic particles, metallic particles, and a water-soluble slurry of organic binder (col. 6, lines 8-12) or a ceramic material prepared by kneading a mixture of ceramic particles and a water-soluble slurry comprising an organic binder (col. 8, lines 27-33). In either case, applicants' approach is both novel and unobvious over the disclosure of Tanaka '507. Nothing in Tanaka '507, taken alone or together with the secondary references suggests the method set out in claim 11. Claims 12-30 are dependent on claim 11 and are believed to be allowable with it. Further, these claims add features which, in the claimed combination, are neither shown nor suggested by the art of record.

Double patenting

Claims 11-19 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent 6,315,880. It is believed that the claims as now written are clearly not obvious over the claims of this patent, taken alone or in combination with the secondary references. It is therefore believed that no terminal disclaimer is required.

Conclusion

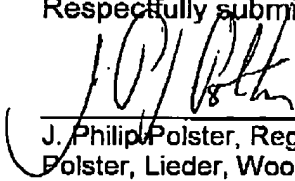
It is believed that the foregoing amendments place the case in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have questions or suggestions, however, he is

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urged to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number given below or directly
at 314-238-2426.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 4, 2005


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